

Trail Management at Other Locations

Here is information gathered from other locations with trail situations similar to ours - steep, narrow, with drop offs along side, or a road running along a ridgeline where mountain bikers can be driven to. Our ridge road allows mountain bikers to downhill thrill ride several trails a day! This is far more erosion than a hiker would cause even if the erosion they caused was equal!

Note: When you are contacting other entities for information please

- ask whether any trails are closed to mountain bikes
- ask what the criteria are for such closure
- find out about enforcement methods and fines

1) 10-8-02 **Inyo National Forest, Forest Service**

Stan Overholt, the OHV specialist in the Inyo National Forest (Eastern Sierra roughly from S of Lone Pine up past Mammoth). I was interested in the issue of bikes on non wilderness trails. He says that in general they allow bikes on non-wilderness areas unless they are posted as excluded. There are particular trails which are posted as excluded because of heavy usage by hikers. Whitney Portal is one example. In the Mammoth area the rule is that the trails are closed to bikes unless posted as open. The reason for this is the heavy usage of the trails by hikers. To summarize, he says they have a lot of trails open to bikes, but **where hiker usage is heavy they are excluded even outside of wilderness.**

2) **China Camp State Park - from Matthew Sproul, ranger**

All shared use trails designed and constructed to be shared use.

Considered beginner/intermediate mtn bike

Minimum width of 4 ft. grade <10% with most less than 7%

15 mph speed limit

90% of mtn bikers follow rules, about 10% don't

Rangers enforce rules, write tickets for **\$200**

No collisions reported.

Frequent serious injuries to mountain bikers, about 1 a month with broken bones requiring helicopter evacuation.

3) **Marin Open Space District - MCOSD**

In general bikes are not allowed on trails.

Two exceptions:

24" Trail, <8% grade built by mountain bikers on private land which was then obtained by MCOSD. To new to have a record of how its working as multiuse, but mainly used by mtn bikes.

New trail built as multi-use, not yet open. 4 ft wide, <10% grade

Otherwise bikes are only permitted on fire roads.

Ranger I talked to indicated that a trail of the description which I gave him of tunnel would be totally unacceptable for multi-use

4) Marin Municipal Water District MMWD , Mt. Tamalpais

130 miles of hiking trails not open to bikes

90 miles of fire roads open to bikes.

5) City of Boulder Open Space District - Matt Jones

most trails closed to bikes in 1987

Standards for shared use trails are grade less than 10% with one case of a short 15% section. 6 to 8 ft wide.

problems leading to regulation

inability to stay off closed trails

Conflicts with hikers and riders

resource damage - erosion

Says the erosive damage is comparable between bikes and hikers except when bikes must drag rear wheels which greatly increases erosion.

Says studies of the effectiveness of education in other areas of human activity show that it isn't sufficient for controlling unwanted behavior at a low level.

6) Midpeninsula Open Space District - San Mateo and Santa Clara counties

John Escobar, Asst. General Manager of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District which manages parks and trails in Santa Clara County. Part of their trails descend from a road at the top of a ridge. He is willing to provide a lot more information if needed.

They manage about 200 miles of trails of which about 30% is single track. Most of the single track is 10 to 15% grade with less than 3 miles in excess of 20%. He says that trail maintenance on these steep sections is very difficult. They have closed 7 of their 20 sites to mountain bikers in spite of vociferous protests by mountain bikers. They rely extensively on education and enforcement. They have rangers who patrol the trails and hand out fines - \$115 to \$150 for violations. They use radar to monitor speed. Getting compliance from mountain bikers requires a strong enforcement presence. They also have volunteer trail patrols whom they train themselves, mixing hikers, bikers and equestrians together. The volunteers are not organized by the special interest groups.

Their experience has been that there are compliance problems when part of a site is open to bikes and part not. **If the whole site is closed compliance is much better.**

About 40% of their users are mtn bikers but they have only "6 or 7" individuals who are full on downhill riders and they are not very popular with other riders. Their singletrack is 2 to 3 ft wide tread. They have one trail which is only open to uphill cycling as an experiment.

7) Monterey County Regional Parks

Ben Post a Member of the Monterey County Regional Parks board which oversees the public parks in Monterey County where bikes are tightly controlled, being excluded from many trails and having their own trails in some cases. He has also been involved with the trails in Fort Ord, BLM, as well as some Forest

Service stuff.

He says that both the **regional parks and the BLM** have adopted 8 foot as the minimum trail width for combined use of equestrians, hikers and bikes. And that most new trails are restricted to a 6% grade.

Historic narrow, steep trails anything like ours are only open to hikers. Enforcement is by rangers and can go up to confiscating the bike and writing a ticket.

8) 10-10-2 Chino Hills State Park

Ron Krueper says they try to have as many trails as possible multiuse because that reduces the needs for enforcement. They do still spend significant effort on regulating the bike's speeds and keeping them off closed trails. They have 5 trails closed to mtn bikes. They have closed trails to bikes because of impact on riparian habitat. They also have trails **closed because they are steep, have serious erosion issues, limited line of sight and a history of accidents**. They prefer to use fire roads for shared use, but do have some narrow shared use singletrack, especially as connectors to make loops. The closed trails are all "foot paths" that are 2 to 3 ft wide at most.

UCSB Bike Policy - Bicycles are vehicles under the California Vehicle Code

3. Bicycles:

a. Licensing: Faculty, staff, and students who reside on campus and University off-campus housing should license their bicycles with the University Police Department. Those residing in the City of Santa Barbara may also license their bicycles with the department.

b. Regulations on Use of Bicycles: Bicyclists are subject to the rules and regulations set forth pursuant to Santa Barbara County Ordinance 1459.1 and the **Vehicle Code** of the State of California. These regulations cover operation and parking restrictions. Copies of these regulations are available at the Police Department for inspection.

Yosemite National Park Bike Policy <http://www.nps.gov/yose/trip/protect.htm>

Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and **keep bicycles on paved roads and paved trails**. They are not allowed to travel off-trail, on unpaved trails, or in wilderness areas. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite. Bicyclists under 18 years of age must wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet.

52 places restricting mountain biking -

Although this is not meant to be all inclusive list, this is what has been found on the Internet as of 11-1-02, these are places just in this country:

Annadel State Park (All but one trail are multi-use), CSP, Sonoma County
Big Basin State Park (bikes permitted on fire roads only), CSP, Santa Cruz County
Bollinas Lagoon Preserve, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Marin County (no bikes on trails)
Butano State Park (bikes permitted on fire roads only), CSP, San Mateo County
Calero County Park (no bikes permitted on any trails), SCCP, Santa Clara County
Castle Rock State Park (no bikes permitted on any trails), CSP, Santa Cruz County
China Camp State Park (All shared use trails designed and constructed to be shared use)
Chino Hills State Park (5 trails closed to mtn bikes, speed enforcement on others)
City of Boulder Open Space District (most trails closed to bikes in 1987)
Coal Mine Ridge, Portola Ranch Homeowner's Association, San Mateo County
Crescent Trail , Fairport New York (trail closed to mountain bikes after 1 year experiment)
East Bay Municipal Utility District watershed lands, (no bikes)
El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve (All trails but the short path to the Tafari are multi-use), MROSD, San Mateo County
Fall Creek Unit, Henry Cowell State Park (no bikes permitted on any trails), CSP, Santa Cruz County
Grant County Park (Most trails are multi-use. A few are closed to cyclists, and a handful are hiking-only. Some illegally cut bike trails), SCCP, Santa Clara County
Hidden Villa, Santa Clara County (No bicycles are permitted. Most trails are signed hiking only, but a few permit equestrian use)
Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve (no bikes permitted on any trails), EBRPD, Contra Costa County
Indian Tree Open Space Preserve (bikes are permitted only one trail; others restricted), MCOSD, Marin County
Inyo National Forest, Forest Service (lot of trails open to bikes, but where hiker usage is heavy they are excluded even outside of wilderness)
Junipero Serra County Park (bikes only permitted on park roads; no bikes on trails), SMCPD, San Mateo County
La Honda Open Space Preserve (No bikes, horses, or dogs are permitted), MROSD, San Mateo County
Loch Lomond Recreation Area (No bikes or horses), City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County
Los Trancos Open Space Preserve (No bikes. No dogs), MROSD, San Mateo County
Los Vaqueros Watershed (no bikes permitted at the County Line Staging Area, south end of the watershed), CCWD, Contra Costa County

Marin Municipal Water District MMWD , Mt. Tamalpais (130 miles of hiking trails not open to bikes 90 miles of fire roads open to bikes)
Maurice Thorne Memorial Open Space Preserve (no bikes permitted on the preserve's trail), MCOSD, Marin County
McNee Ranch State Park (Most trails are multi-use. Two trails are designated hiking only.), CSP, San Mateo County
Middlesex Fells Reservation Massachusetts (some hiking only trails - Orange, Blue and White)
Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline (no bikes permitted on the trails in the park's eastern section), EBRPD, Contra Costa County
Monterey County Regional Parks (bikes are tightly controlled, being excluded from many trails and having their own trails in some cases)
Mount Madonna County Park (no bikes on park trails), SCCP, Santa Clara County
Muir Woods National Monument (no bikes permitted on any trails), MWNM, Marin County
Napa River Ecological Reserve (no bikes permitted), California Department of Fish and Game, Napa County
Olompali State Historic Park (no bikes permitted on any trails), CSP, Marin County
Palomarin Trailhead (no bikes south of Wildcat Camp), PRNS, Marin County
Palos Forest Preserve Illinois (dirt with a gray marker, it's open - all other trails closed to bikes)
Pichetti Ranch Open Space Preserve (No bikes, no dogs), MROSD, Santa Clara County
Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve (No bikes or horses), MRSOD, San Mateo County
Portola Redwoods State Park (allowed on paved roads only), CSP, San Mateo County
Rush Ranch Open Space Preserve (no bikes permitted on any trails), Solano Land Trust, Solano County
Sanborn-Skyline County Park (no bikes permitted on any trails), SCCP, Santa Clara County
Soquel Demonstration State Forest (Trails are multi-use), California Department of Forestry, Santa Cruz County
Thornewood Open Space Preserve (no bikes permitted on the one trail), MROSD, San Mateo County
Tomales Bay State Park, CSP, Marin County (no bikes on trails, bikes ok on paved park road)
Tomales Point Trailhead, Point Reyes National Seashore (no bikes on the trail).
Uvas Canyon County Park (no bikes permitted on any trails), SCCP, Santa Clara County
Villa Montalvo County Park (no bikes permitted on any trails), SCCP, Santa Clara County
Westwood Hills Park (no bikes permitted on any trails), City of Napa Parks and Recreation

Wilder Ranch State Park (All trails are multi-use, except for the path on the south side of Highway 1, which is closed to equestrians), CSP, Santa Cruz County
Wunderlich County Park (no bikes permitted on any trails), SMCPD, San Mateo County
Yosemite National Park (bicycles on paved roads and paved trails only)

CCWD=Contra Costa Water District
CSP=California State Parks
EBRPD=East Bay Regional Park District
MCOSD=Marin County Open Space District
MROSD=Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
MWNM=Muir Woods National Monument
PRNS=Point Reyes National Seashore
SCCP=Santa Clara County Parks
SMCPD=San Mateo County Parks Department